

Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council
FULL COUNCIL REMOTE MEETING

Thursday, May 13, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Illinois State Library
300 South Second St., Room 403/404
Springfield, IL 62701

A 08/08

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chairman Piazza called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and read the following statement, “I have determined that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the Open Meetings Act is not practical or prudent because on March 9, 2020 the Governor of Illinois declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.”

He then asked Micah Miller to take the roll call. The following were present:

Council Members	Present	Absent
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X	
Lt. Colonel The’ V. Tran, Illinois State Police	X	
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	X	
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department		X
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department		X
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney	X	
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X	
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X	
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X	
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X	
Charles “Chuck” Dougherty, Pekin Insurance		X

Council Staff	Present	Absent
Micah Miller, Program Director	X	
Sherry Brticevich, Grant Monitor	X	
Amy Williams, Legal Counsel	X	
Monica Melton, Budget Analyst	X	
Dave Fuchs, Program Assistant	X	

Chairman Piazza recognized that a quorum was present (6 or more).
 The following individuals were also in attendance:

- Capt. Elmer Garza, ISATT
- Sgt. Adam Broshous, ISATT
- Dwayne Killian, TCAT
- Sgt. Ed Grizzle, TCAT
- Doug Beckman, Village Administrator, Village of Thornton
- Lt. Matt Jany, MEATTF
- Tiffany Baum, Dept. of Information Technology, Secretary of State
- Terri Coombes, Deputy Chief of Staff, Secretary of State
- Josh Potts, Programs and Policies, Secretary of State
- Jim Roach, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office
- Michael Cooke, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office
- Amanda Trimmer, Chief Deputy Director, Secretary of State Budget Office
- Alyssa Haaker, General Counsel, Secretary of State
- Carrie Leitner, Vehicle Services Department, Secretary of State
- Irene Lyons, General Counsel, Secretary of State

Chairman Piazza welcomed everyone and noted that Colonel David Byrd retired from ISP in April and welcomed Lt. Colonel The’ V. Tran as the official designee to the Council for the Illinois State Police. Col. Tran thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Piazza asked if there were comments on the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting. Hearing none, Chairman Piazza made the motion to approve and Todd Feltman seconded. The minutes were approved with a roll call vote, 8 yes – 0 no.

Vote on minutes from February 18, 2021

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Colonel The’ V. Tran, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	X		
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department			
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles “Chuck” Dougherty, Pekin Insurance			

3. Program Director's report – Micah Miller

Mr. Miller also informed the members that Bill House has taken a new position with the Governor's office and would no longer be serving as the Budget Analyst for the Council. He read a brief statement thanking the members for having the opportunity to work together. Amanda Trimmer informed the Council that Monica Melton would be taking over those duties.

Mr. Miller also reminded the new members that they are obligated to complete Open Meetings Act training, since they are "elected or appointed members of a public body." He noted that the website for the Illinois Attorney General's Office offers a free Open Meetings Act training.

Mr. Miller noted that the current 2019-2022 Statewide Motor Vehicle Theft Strategy will soon be expiring and the Council will need to review this document and offer changes for the 2023-2026 Strategy. He noted that 20 ILCS 4005/7 part (c) and (d) instruct the Council to assess the scope of motor vehicle theft through analyses of data and to develop plans and strategies to combat motor vehicle theft. He suggested discussions begin in the fall of 2021 to overhaul this document, which will guide program funding beyond year-4.

Finally, Mr. Miller recognized Gary Brewer for his recent retirement on April 1 and for his service to the Metro East Auto Theft Task Force. Lt. Jany indicated that Gary Brewer was the first person to join him in restarting the unit and was invaluable making it a success.

4. Electronic payment system update – Tiffani Baum

Tiffani Baum said that she received 107 electronic payments, which totaled \$4,398,757 since January 1, 2021. Mr. Miller indicated that he collected approximately \$2.2 million in paper checks, which brings the overall total to approximately \$6.6 million. He also said that compared to prior years, the fund looks to be about \$350,000 short, but he also indicated that there were approximately 15 companies that he needed to follow up with. Based upon the payments that those companies provided in 2019 and 2020, Mr. Miller projected that the Trust Fund would most likely collect over \$7 million for 2021 once all payments were accounted for.

5. Financial Report – Monica Melton

Chief Deputy Director Trimmer said that she and Ms. Melton worked on the financial report together and offered an overview of the Trust Fund. She noted that calendar year 2020 ended with an overall fund balance of \$17.5 million and 2021 is estimated to end with \$15.1 million if the year-3 grants are approved.

She also noted that moving forward, reports will show a more clear breakdown of how funding is split between the Council and those funds that are designated for use by the Mandatory Insurance division. With incoming revenue being split 50% for each party, the Council balance

was \$7.9 million at the end of calendar year 2020 and was projected to be \$4 million at the end of 2021 if the year-3 grants are approved.

Mr. Miller thanked Chief Deputy Director Trimmer for the report and indicated that the new format for the financial report will help clear up how much money the Council may utilize for grants. He also noted that a representative from the Mandatory Insurance division will be participating at all of the future full Council meetings to help answer questions about their operation. He noted that their system would be going live next month and this would be the perfect opportunity for both parties to have increased communications with each other.

6. Grant Review Committee Report – Sherry Brticevich

Ms. Brticevich noted that all year-3 funding documents were distributed to the members, with exception of Bartonville who declined to apply for year-3 funding. She also noted that the Village of Thornton included a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chicago Police Department to allow a partnership for year-3. The following three grants were approved by the Grant Review Committee and would now be considered by the full Council:

- Metro East Auto Theft Task Force (St. Clair County) - \$2,388,739
- Tri County Auto Theft Task Force (City of Joliet) - \$1,601,741
- Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Task Force including an MOU with Chicago Police Department’s Major Auto Theft Investigations Unit (Village of Thornton) - \$3,338,845

a. Vote on Recommended Year-3 Funding

Chairman Piazza suggested each grant be considered individually and asked MEATTF to provide a quick update to the members. Lt. Jany said that during the year-2 grant cycle they have recovered 383 vehicles with a combined value of over \$5 million. They have also seen over 100 arrests with charges for approximately 80%. He also noted that this is the first year they have been fully staffed with 12 investigators.

Mr. Miller asked if there were any new developments with their partners in St. Louis. Lt. Jany said they are holding monthly carjacking meetings and that St. Charles County is still trying to get a vehicle theft unit for their jurisdiction.

Hearing no other comments, Chairman Piazza made the motion to approve the grant award of \$2,388,739 to St. Clair County and Mr. Feltman seconded. The grant award was approved with a roll call vote, 8 yes – 0 no.

Vote for year-3 funding for St. Clair County

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Colonel The’ V. Tran, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office	X		

Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department			
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State's Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles "Chuck" Dougherty, Pekin Insurance			

Chairman Piazza asked TCAT to provide a quick update to the members. Sgt. Grizzle indicated that during the year-2 grant cycle they have 338 reports, 96 arrests, recovered 256 vehicles with a combined value of over \$4.1 million. Additionally they recovered \$730,000 in cargo and conducted several presentations and trainings in the area. He noted that they added StarChase to their bait car operation, which allows them to better track anyone involved in a vehicle theft. Activity is still very high in the area including car jackings and retagging/reprogramming and they have been working with local jurisdictions and NICB.

Mr. Feltman thanked them for their presentation and noted the data they supplied which broke down thefts by insurance carrier was very helpful. Hearing no other comments, Chairman Piazza made the motion to approve the grant award of \$1,601,741 to the City of Joliet and Mr. Feltman seconded. The grant award was approved with a roll call vote, 8 yes – 0 no.

Vote for year-3 funding for the City of Joliet

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Colonel The' V. Tran, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State's Attorney's Office	X		
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department			
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State's Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles "Chuck" Dougherty, Pekin Insurance			

Chairman Piazza asked ISATT to offer their presentation for the members. Capt. Garza indicated that they were on track to increase their productivity by approximately 45% from last year and noted they currently had 949 cases opened and 461 recovered vehicles at a value of \$12 million. He indicated approximately 100 auto theft related criminal charges, which was similar to last year. He recognized the State's Attorneys from Cook County and noted that they are instrumental in their operation.

Capt. Garza said that their audit team covers auto part recyclers, scrap processors and body shop (repair and rebuilders) and conducted approximately 70 audits with 564 violations and referred 27 audits to the District 1 headquarters last year. He noted that this year they are up to 195 audits with over 1000 violations and have referred 99 to the District 1 headquarters. The audit team also recently discovered two stolen vehicles.

Capt. Garza noted that their year-3 request is larger than last years, but noted the considerable increase to provide support for the Chicago Major Auto Theft Investigations Unit (CMATI) at CPD.

Hearing no other comments, Mr. Feltman made the motion to approve the grant award of \$3,338,845 to the Village of Thornton including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chicago Police Department. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The grant award was approved with a roll call vote, 6 yes – 0 no – 2 abstain.

Vote for year-3 funding for the Village of Thornton including a MOU with Chicago Police Dept.

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)			X
Lt. Colonel The’ V. Tran, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office			X
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department			
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles “Chuck” Dougherty, Pekin Insurance			

Mr. Miller congratulated the grantees on their year-3 funding. Ms. Brticevich thanked the Council for their consideration of these grants and noted that a contract amendment would be forthcoming. She noted that once the grantees sign and return the amendment, the Secretary of State’s office will sign them. At that point, the payments may be initiated with a target date of July 1 for funds to be issued.

7. Vote on Electric Insurance Company Overpayment

Mr. Miller noted that during the collection process for 2021, Electric Insurance Company issued a payment for \$1713. He was later contacted by Mr. Jordan Richards, who is an accountant for the company, who indicated that the payment should have been \$1482 and was seeking a refund in the amount of \$231.

Mr. Miller asked if there was a reason for the discrepancy and Mr. Richards noted that they entered 2019 information rather than 2020.

Jodi Hoos made the motion to process the refund of \$231 and Mr. Gall seconded. The refund was approved with a roll call vote, 8 yes – 0 no.

Vote for year-3 funding for the Village of Thornton including a MOU with Chicago Police Dept.

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Colonel The' V. Tran, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State's Attorney's Office	X		
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department			
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State's Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles "Chuck" Dougherty, Pekin Insurance			

Mr. Miller indicated that he had already discussed the refund with the Director for the Secretary of State's Accounting Revenue Department and he would send a notification to process the refund.

8. Vote on Memorandum of Understanding with the Vehicle Services Department, Mandatory Insurance Division

Mr. Miller mentioned that this was an ongoing discussion to try and secure funding for grantees into year-4 and beyond. He noted that in 2015, when state grants were halted during the budget impasse, insurance payments were made, but not dispersed to grantees. He noted that when the Secretary of State took over administrative oversight of the Council, they inherited a backlog of approximately \$10 million and were immediately met with the conundrum of trying to reissue sustainable grants to combat auto theft.

Mr. Miller noted that the Council has successfully depleted the backlog, but are now in a position where incoming revenue is nowhere near the amount of funding that was approved for year-3. In an effort to secure future funding, Mr. Miller met with the Carrie Leitner, Deputy Director of the Vehicle Services Division, who also has been at the forefront of the Mandatory Insurance Division overhaul. They discussed the current level of funding for each operation – the Council and the Mandatory Insurance Division – each receiving 50% of incoming annual revenue. Both Mr. Miller and Ms. Leitner decided to review the percentage of funds that would be needed for each operation, in the month of January of each year, to decide an appropriate percentage split that would allow both programs to succeed.

Mr. Miller produced a Memorandum of Understanding between the Illinois Secretary of State Department of Vehicle Services (Vehicles) and the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention and Insurance Verification Council (the Council), which designates that the Council shall receive 99% of the proceeds and Vehicles shall receive 1% of the proceeds for calendar year 2021. He noted that this would require a vote by the Council to approve and a unique MOU would be drafted each year moving forward to require Council approval.

Chairman Piazza thanked Mr. Miller and Ms. Leitner for producing this agreement. Ms. Leitner indicated that the program would be going live soon and they are hoping to get better numbers on their projected annual costs soon. Mr. Johnson asked if she anticipated having those costs for next year and Ms. Leitner indicated that to be the case. She explained that 8.5 million vehicles in Illinois are eligible for insurance verification and they are projecting approximately 1.2 million to currently be uninsured. She noted that the rollout of this program would be occurring in June and eventually they are expecting 8,000-10,000 suspension letters going out on a daily basis, which will require a sizable amount of postage and extra employees to train on their phone bank.

Mr. Johnson noted the desire to maintain these task force operations at their current levels and expressed optimism on the current agreement, but caution about having enough funding for year-5 and beyond. Ms. Leitner noted that the vendor they are using for insurance verification has shown good results in other states as far as reducing the number of insured motorists. Mr. Miller noted that these efforts would lead to increased annual revenues as more motorists become insured.

Hearing no other questions Mr. Feltman made the motion to approve the MOU designating 2021 insurance payments be split 99% to the Council and 1% to Vehicles and Jodi Hoos seconded. The MOU was approved with a roll call vote, 8 yes – 0 no.

Vote for MOU designating 2021 insurance payments split 99% to the Council and 1% to Vehicles

Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain
Pete Piazza, Director, Secretary of State Police (Chairman)	X		
Lt. Colonel The' V. Tran, Illinois State Police	X		
David Williams, Cook County State's Attorney's Office	X		
Sgt. Tom Finegan, Chicago Police Department			
Kenny Winslow, Chief, Springfield Police Department			
Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State's Attorney	X		
Larry Johnson, Farmers Insurance	X		
Matt Gall, COUNTRY Financial	X		
Todd Feltman, State Farm Insurance	X		
Molly Hart, AAA Insurance	X		
Charles "Chuck" Dougherty, Pekin Insurance			

9. Old business

There was no old business.

10. New business

There was no new business.

11. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

12. Adjournment

Hearing no other comments, Chairman Piazza made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Feltman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.